

Katie Green

The **Historical Commission** met and held a hearing on the request to demolish a house at 248 High Street. The Commission denied the request under the demolition delay bylaw. They also had a discussion of potential updates to their bylaw including requiring applicants to notify abutters prior to a hearing and lengthening the delay allowed under the bylaw. The **Board of Health** met and approved both a septic variance and a beaver trapping permit extension. They also discussed regulations for private waste haulers including requiring the haulers to annually report the number of customers served in town and the total tonnage of trash and recyclables collected. The Board will schedule a hearing on the regulations for a future meeting. I attended the morning portion of the town's Employee Professional Development and Team Day. After participating in the improve workshop, I presented the Board's annual goals to the town staff. The **Acton Nursing Services Task Force** met and heard an update from Sharon Mercurio on the work of the Senior Center Study Committee. They spent the majority of the meeting reviewing the presentation they will make to the Board of Selectmen at our October 5th meeting. The **Acton Leadership Group** met. There were no significant updates from either the town or the region on FY16 and both entities are finalizing their FY15 audits and starting to work on their FY17 budgets. The group also reviewed the revised spreadsheet and discussed the agenda for the upcoming tri-board meeting. Marie Altieri also presented on the work Peter Ashton did to come up with a new list of comparable towns and schools districts.

Franny Osman

### **Council on Aging Board Meeting (COA) 9-8-15**

Director reported on use of the senior center, a little lower as usual in August. There will be a flu clinic and a program on vision skills. The center is using My Senior Center software to track use of the center. The Director is working with Acton Nursing Services for a Flu Clinic and for a program on Vision Skills.

Questions were raised about the implementation of the tax aid to seniors and people with disabilities:

- What is the status of the implementation of the tax aid to seniors and disabled residents?
- Will there be an asset criteria included in the eligibility requirements for tax aid? If yes, what assets (real estate?, other?) would be considered?
- What is the process for applying for tax aid?

The board voted to send a letter that Barbara Willson had drafted to the Office of Elder Affairs and State Senator Jamie Eldridge supporting proposed Massachusetts legislation (S354) for funding Senior Centers.

The website will be updated; there were two different websites that people reach, accidentally, through the Town website. Bonnie Lobel will update this.

The committee discussed the Senior Center Study Committee charge and members are distributing information encouraging attendance at the 9-28 BOS meeting.

### **Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) 9-9-15**

Mike Gowing is Chair a little longer. Presentation on Climate Resilience.

### **Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC) 9-10-15**

We heard from Mark Fine about Regional cooperation efforts between towns that his department at Metropolitan Area Planning Council is able to assist towns and regions with. The MAGIC region should be looking at whether we want to take advantage of his services for any regional projects. Acton should consider some of his suggestions, which I can share with you. Upcoming Oct. 6 is the first of four working group meetings for this coming year's Climate Change Adaptation study that is our region's project for the year. We seek representatives. The following people are starting out representing Acton the group: William Romer, Jenny Fialkoff, Debra Simes.

### **Senior Center Study Committee (SCSC) 9-11-15**

This committee had to draft the letter to go to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) about our charge and the work we have done so far. The Chair til now (who had to leave that position due to work responsibilities), Chris Hamilton, and Peter Ashton, drafted it and the committee tweaked it and voted to present it for the 9-28 BOS meeting. We did

not pick a new chair, not knowing what the outcome of the 9-28 meeting would be and if our charge would change or not. Sharon Mercurio will temporarily chair the group between meetings, and we will choose new officers on 9-30.

#### **Commission on Disability (COD) 9-15-15**

The committee is staying apprised of issues including: Douglas School accessibility, Town Meeting accessibility, some local businesses' accessibility, 34 Elm St. development, senior center/ community center discussion upcoming at Board of Selectmen. Upcoming letter on 34 Elm St. to the newspaper, and development and COD handbook.

#### **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) 9-16-15**

Continued to give input to Doug Halley on the proposed routes for the fixed route bus, Cross-Acton Transit . Doug shared the plethora of comments he has received on the route.

#### **Acton Cable Advisory Committee (ACAC) 9-17-15**

I attended this meeting to learn more about the role of the ACAC vs. Acton TV, which is a private non-profit and to meet the new director of Acton TV. I now understand how Acton TV is funded, the challenges (branding, funding) and met the committee. A question came up as to whether working with Boxborough would make sense. I thought it was worth a look, since a certain proportion of income from cable dues comes to the town for the TV station and Boxborough doesn't have one.

#### **North-South Rail Link Working Group Meeting 9-21-15**

I was honored to be invited to join the North South Rail Link Working Group, and the first meeting occurred at the State House on Sept. 21. One hundred forty legislators have signed a letter of interest in this project, and Senator Jamie Eldridge, also on the Working Group, included \$2 million in the Transportation Bond Bill for a study of the link, which would connect North and South Stations. Mayors of Salem, Newton, Somerville, and many business and transportation representatives attended.

Janet K. Adachi

Acton Community Housing Corporation, Wednesday, 9/16 – Ms. Adachi missed meeting. Some residents were present to hear update about 34 Elm Street project, whose proponents after months of discussion have decided to forgo the collaborative approach to the proposed Chapter 40B project, and work solely with the state for the initial approvals, which will hamper the Town's ability to secure modifications.

Conservation Commission

- Tuesday, 9/15 - In response to inquiry from resident, Ms. Adachi met with Natural Resources Director Tom Tidman to discuss proposed development involving large parcel adjacent to Mt. Hope Cemetery. Applicant has received state approval under MA wetlands protection law; Commission will open hearing with respect to Acton wetlands protection bylaw requirements in October.

- Wednesday, 9/16 – Meeting cancelled.

Design Review Board, Wednesday, 9/16 – Meeting cancelled.

Finance Committee

- Tuesday, 9/8 – Ms. Adachi missed meeting due to Selectmen's meeting at same time. Agenda include subcommittee and other updates.

- Tuesday, 9/22 –Various updates and related discussion, including about recently completed municipal facilities survey and implications for Town's ongoing efforts to develop long-range capital plan; status of draft of FinComm FY17 point-of-view memorandum; 3-boards meeting; Minuteman Regional building proposal; ongoing Town screening of candidates for Land Use/Economic Development officer (FinComm voted to send formal request to Selectmen/Town Manager for copies of resumes/applications of final 4 candidates).

Land Stewardship Committee, Tuesday, 9/15 – Ms. Adachi missed meeting.

Minuteman Regional District – Ms. Adachi will represent the Selectmen on a new working committee that includes Pam Nourse, Acton's Minuteman School Committee representative, Superintendent, School Committee member, Finance Committee member, Town Manager. Ms. Adachi also will be conferring with Boxborough Board of Selectmen Chairman, who would like Selectmen of area member-communities to develop a solution to the Minuteman conundrum.

Regionalization Finance Oversight Subcommittee – At the request of the Board Chairman, Ms. Adachi will continue for the 2015-2016 year to represent the Board on this School Committee subcommittee, whose charge is to review budgets annually to verify that regionalization is generating the savings that were an important element of Town Meeting's approval of K-6 regionalization.

Water Resources Advisory Committee, Wednesday, 9/30, 7:00 p.m., Room 204 - Public information meeting about proposed stormwater management bylaw.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Mon, 9/14 – Ms. Adachi missed meeting but conferred with Town staff and ZBA chairman to address some issues that surfaced during meeting.

---

Other community-related activities:

Community Center exploration – Continued discussion. Proponents have submitted a letter for the Board's consideration during tonight's discussion of the Senior Center Study Committee effort.

495/Metrowest Partnership Water Resources Committee, Tuesday, 9/15 – Updates by several MA Department of Environmental Protection representatives, including about Environmental Protection Agency's draft stormwater management regulations, which DEP currently expects to become final in December.